

THE
HUMBLE REMONSTRANCES

Of the COMMISSION of the GE-
NERALL ASSEMBLIE, To the
Kings Majestie, and Honorable
Cōmittee of Estates, of the
third, and twenty fyfth
of January, 1651,

WITH
The Answer from the KINGS MAJESTY & Hono-
rable Cōmittee of Estates, thereunto, of the
sixth of Februarie, 1651.



ABERDENE.

Printed by James Brown, 1651.







UNTO
THE KINGS
MOST EXCEL-
LENT MAJESTIE,

AND
To the Honourable Committee
of ESTATES,

The humble REMONSTRANCE of the COMMIS-
SION of the GENERALL ASSEMBLIE.

IN this sad and calamitous
tyme, Wee having called up-
on the inhabitants of the Land of all
ranks, unto unfeigned repentance, unto a
serious search and tryall of their wayes, and
turning agayn unto the LORD; And your
Honours, having in prosecution of your duetie, according to
the Fayth of the Kingdome, and according to the Covenant,

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and League and Covenant, solemnlie set the Crown vpon the King, and installed him in the Throne of the Kingdome, after his publick and solemn renewing of the Covenants mentioned, The conscience of our duetie to GOD, His Kirk, this kingdome, your Majestie, & your Lordships, The desyre to be found faithfull, according to the trust comitted to us by the Generall Assemblie, And the care to clear our selves, as in the sight of GOD, before the present generation, and the posteritie that shall come up after us, And before all the reformed kirks in the world, That wee haue been, are, and shall be, in the strength of him by whose grace wee stand, affected with all tender respects to the preservation Of the Reformed Religion, by GODS blessing established amongst us, Of the Libertie of this ancient kingdome, and Of the honour and happinesse of his Majestie, in the maintenance of the true Religion, and liberties of the kingdome, and possessed with a perfect hatred of *Errors* and *Heresies*, Of perfidious compliance with the maintainers and abettors thereof, who presently oppresse a great part, and endeavour the enslaving of the whole kingdome, And of treacherous disloyaltie to lawfull authoritie, Have moved us, to represent unto your Honours, the dangers wherewith ~~wee congregate~~ this kingdome for the present to be pressed, and threatned, and the duties lying upon you, toward the endeavouring the removall, or preventing those apparent evils.

I. A prevayling enemie within the bowels of the kingdome, by whom not onlie the persons, and estates of men, but their consciences and soules are in danger to be seduced and destroyed.

II. Unhappie divisions amongst these that should be united, which is a sad prognostick (if not removed) of destruction.

III. Untymous scrupulositie of manie, in a tyme of extreme exigencie, whereby they with-draw themselves, lye by, and refuse to act their duty, which by these that are unconcerned and unacquainted with their tenderneesse, will be judged a de-

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ged a detestable indifferencie, and Neutralitie, an exposing of the Kingdome to the violence of the enemy, and a deserting of the Cause and Covenants.

IV. The perfidious and treacherous compliance of diverse, even of such as had trust in the armie, and are now with the enemy.

V. The desidious neglect of Officers of the Armie, who having diverse thousands, lying in severall partes of the kingdome, to the heave burthen and oppression thereof, and grinding the faces of the poore, yet have not been stirring, and active agaynst the enemy, so much as to disturbe their quarters theie sixteene weekes by-gone, Though a great part of the Land, hath lyen under the feete of the enemy, looking daylie for reliefe.

VI. The deceitfull *Covetousnesse* of some Officers, who have disappoynted the Leavie of Forces, for Defence of the Kingdome, taking moneyes for men and horses, from the subjects, and yet, not recruiting their companies, according to their reccate; by which meanes they have deceived the Estate, Oppressed the Lieges, mocked the Service, and made up themselves. An intolerable evill, often complayned upon, and yet to this day no effectuall course taken for redresse and remedie.

VII. The longsome delays, which are apt to breed jealousies into the hearts of the people, that their lurketh some mysterie of iniquitie, which they darre not believe, To enfeeble the spirits of men, and render them faint, and unhappilie to fit them unto a disposition of giving over hopes, and of sitting down under the burthen, and taking on the yoke of bondage, imposed by the hand of Strangers. In the meane tyme, they are under insupportable sufferings from the enemy, their persons tyrannized over, as bond-slaves, their goods spoyled, their meate plucked from their mouthes, their families readle to sterve for famine, whyle their eyes are fayingling; and lyke to fall out with looking for reliefe, and fynd none.

These evils are so apparent, that nothing needeth to bee spoken for clearing them, it is enough to haue named them: And as wee hope your tender affection to the Kirk and Kingdome, will constraîne you to lay them to heart, and command you to improve all your wit, and strength, with all possible speed and diligence, to search for, apply, and prosecute convenient remedies for these diseases, lest in progresse of tyme, they become incurable; So wee are confident, Your Highnesse and Honours will take it in good part, that wee upon the urgent motives above expressed, have layd them before you, and doe gravelie exhort you, **IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HIGH GOD**, before whose Tribunall you must stand, to give an accompt unto Him, who is appoynted to judge both great and small.

I. That Your Majestie, according to the manie and strong engagements that lye upon you, by the solemne incalling upon **THE NAME OF GOD** in the Covenants, betweene **GOD**, and You, and the People, And betweene You and Your People, Would approve Your selfe faythfull, in prosecution of the ends of these Covenants, in all the heads and articles thereof, for the preservation of Religion, Defence of Your People, administration of Iustice, Your owne personall reformation, the purgation of Your Royall Familie, as of silver from the drosse, And the constituting the same of such as are the faythfull in the Land, And further, that Your Majestie would keep Your selfe from familiaritie, and intecnesse with these who may prove shares to Your Majestie, and give just occasion of offence, to Your Godlie and Honest People, So shall Your Throne be established in Religion and Righteousnesse; So shall the King rejoyce in **GOD**, And everie one that sweareth by him, shall glorie, but the mouth of them that speake lyes, shall be stopped, So shall Your Subjects leade a quyet and peaceable lyfe, in all godlinesse, and honestie, under Your Governement: Which, as it hath been the earnest prayer and expectation of us, and all Your People, So shall wee still resolve to importune the Throne of Grace, that You may reigne

may reigne for Him, by whom You reigne, And that above all things, You endeavour the Well-fare of his Kingdome, who is the exalted Prince, to give salvation unto his people, and who will honour these that honour him, and these that despise him, shall bee lightlie esteemed.

II. That laying asyde all selfe interest, as base, and unworthie of men that are in places of publick trust, and putting on publick spirits, and bowells of compassion, to the bleeding, and bailefull condition of your mother Kirk, and native Kingdome, you that have been, and are united under the most solemne ties of Covenants, would cordiallie unite your selfe as one man, serve the LORD with one shoulder, and with one hand, helpe the LORD against the Mightie, for avoyding the curse of *Meroz*. Is it tyme that there should bee stryfe between brethren, when the *Cananites* and *Perizzites* are in the Land? Doeth all the affliction of GODS people seeme light in your eyes? Is it a small thing that the blood of your mothers children is spilt lyke water upon the ground? Is the Captivitie of *Joseph* quyte forgottē? Is there no sence of the violence done unto your flesh, in the partes of the Land possessed by the enemye, labouring hardlie, under cruell *Egyptian* task-masters, despoyled of their goods, and depryved of their daylie bread, and in danger to bee infected with the deadlie poyson of *eroneous doctrine*? While you that are brethren stryve together, shall the rest of your brethren sterve for want, or enslave them selves for getting bread? Will you suffer your brethren to lye under the hazard of unwholsome food for their soules? Is there no zeale for the LORD, whose Name is blasphemed, His Ordinances trodden under foote, His Covenant contemned? If there be anie consolation in CHRIST, if anie comfort of love, if anie fellowship of the Spirit, and bowells, and mercies, fullfill ye our joye, that ye be lyke mynded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mynd, Let nothing be done through stryfe, or wayne glorie, but in lowlinesse of mynd, Looke not everie one upon his owne thinges, but everie

rie man also upon the thinges of others, Yea, the thinges of all, the thinges of GOD, of the KIRK, of the KING-DOME, and of the KING, now in COVENANT with GOD, and His KIRK, and in COVENANT also with the Subiectes in this Kingdome, by their mutuall oathes past at his CORONATION.

III. That though our present dangers arise from these, who at the first professed themselves our friendes, and seemed to goe along with us, so long as they might carrie one their owne interest, and drive their devillish designe, which hath broken forth to the view of the world, and broken in upon us with an unjust invasion. And daylie bruise our verie bones, You would still keepe a watchfull eye over these, who have been from the beginning, and continue still, or are at this tyme obstinate, and professed enemies, and opposers of the COVENANT, and CAUSE of GOD, that none such be put in trust or power, lest the CAUSE of GOD be thereby endangered, and the bitter roote of *Malignancie* spring up, unto the over topping of the tender Vine, which the LORD hath planted amongst us in this Land: Let not the hornes of such grow up unto that length and strength, as to push agayne and pierce the sydes of the People of GOD.

IV. That as with all tenderesse you would compassionate the true lie pious under their doubts and scruples, And endeavour, if possible, their satisfaction, without prejudice to the CAUSE, So ye would carefullie take heed, that scruple of conscience be not, by some, pretended unto unwillingnesse of of acting, for preservation of the endangered Cause, and sinking Kingdom, and taken on as a mask, to cover the designe of under-hand advancing the interest of the *Sectarian Ar-mie*, as some have already done, who now unmasking themselves, are not ashamed to appeare with open face amongst them.

V. That you would with all wisdome and circumspect-
ness, in

ness, in simplicitie of heart, and with myndes disengaged from respect of persons, carefullie endeavour, that such as are or shall bee preferred to the keeping of Forts, charge in the Armie, or unto other Places of trust, be men of pietie, honestie, and abilitie for their Imployment; The rather because some have unskillfullie, some unfaithfullie managed, & others treacherouslie betrayed their trust.

VI. That you would declare your zeale, dislike of, and displeasure agaynst the perfidious, and disnated countrey men, who joyne themselves with the common enemy, who are haters of *ZION*, and of this Nation, who say, *Let us root out their name from under Heaven*; as also agaynst compliers with them, according to the degree, and qualitie of their offence.

VII. That some censure may be inflicted upon these Officers, that through base *Covetousnesse*; and shamelesse love of money, which is the roote of all evill, have filled their owne handes, and not increased their Forces; And some solid course may be taken, for preventing the lyke disappoyntment of Levies, and unnecessarie oppression of the people, in tyme coming; And; because there are manie oppressions, and insolencies, acted by souldiours, You would bee pleased to cause exercise Militarie Discipline, exactlie, according to the Articles of Warre, whereby they may bee restrayned from the lyke practises.

AND LASTLY, That You would vigorouslie goe about the acting of some what in opposition to the enemy, for making up the losse of so much tyme, and manyfold opportunities, Be of good courage, and play the Men for Your People, and for the Cities of Your *GOD*, and let the *LORD* doe what seemeth Him good. The just eye of the Righteous judge of the World, who is a swift Witnesse agaynst all that sweare falslie by His *NAME*, beholdeth all Your behaviour, His Eyes runne to and fro, to show Himselfe strong for them, whose hearts are perfect towards Him. The eyes

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of all the Reformed **K I N G S** are upon you, to observe your actions, whether you quyte your selves lyke faythfull Christians, Good Patriots, and Loyall Subjects, towards your professed Religion, your Native Kingdome, and your crowned King, in Covenant with the People of **G O D**, according to the manyfold Obligations of the Nationall Covenant, League and Covenant, and other solemne Oathes, wherby you are engaged. Thinke not that you shall escape more then others, for if you shall altogether with-holde your hand at this tyme Then shall there enlargement & delyverance arise from another place, but you & your Families will be ruined. Commit your wayes unto the **L O R D**, and goe on in the power of His Might, with your lyves in your handes, Entering upon death, attended by danger, with **E S T H E R S** magnanimous resolution, **I F W E P E R I S H, W E P E R I S H.** The **G O D** of Heaven shall accept of your endeavours, and in Him wee trust, that Hee shall second them with happie successe; Your reward is with Him, and your names shall be precious to the present and succeeding Generation, Because you devoted your selves for preserving and transmitting intoe, what ever is, and ought to bee in highest esteeme with men, that are not voyde of Religion, reason, and naturall affection. The onlie Wyse **G O D**, The King Eternall, Immortall, Invisibell, give unto Your Highnesse, and to Your Honours, Understanding in all thinges; And let the Beautie of the **L O R D** our **G O D** bee upon you, And establish the work of your handes; yea, the worke of your handes may hee establish.

A. Ker.



S^t Andrewes, 25 January, 1651.

To the King his most Excellent
Majestie, And the Honourable
 Committee of Estates, The hum-
ble Remonstrance of the Commission
of the Generall Assemblie.



Although the present sad
 distresses of this KIRK, and
 Kingdome, and the imminent danger
 of greater calamities threatned daily against
 the same, by the publickemie, and readie
 shortly to overwhelm them, if not speedily
 prevented, requyre rather that your Majestie and Lordships
 should be whollie and activelie taken up, in setting all lawfull
 and necessarie meanes on foote, for defence and delyverance of
 the Land, and people of GOD therein, from oppression and
 bondage, then to beanie wayes diverted by papers from anie;
 And we would be loath to trouble you with anything of this
 kynd, having of late in severall Remonstrances, been represent-
 ing such matters as we found needfull, and incumbent to us, to
 hold forth, for the good of the Kirk & Kingdom: Yet conside-
 ring the trust that is committed to us, in relation to publick ef-
 fairs, for the charging of which we must answer to GOD & the
 Kirk, And perceaving fundry things in the present publick car-
 riage of busines, which we conceive may prove justly offensive
 to honest people, and very prejudiciall to the work; As it is our
 duty; So we hope it shall never offend you, nor any way retard;
 But shall further acting for the publick good, that we doe use
 our wonted freedom and faithfulness, in representing at this
 tyme to

tyme to your Majestie and Lordships some of these things, which especiallie need tymouslie to be looked to, & remedied.

And first, That whereas in answer to the Quazree, propounded by your Majestie & the Estates of Parliament, we did give our faithfull advyce concerning such persons, as might in the present necessity, be lawfully imployed in service, for defence of the kingdom, against the publick enemy: We doe perceive, that in the Act of Leavie, some persons are nominat to be Officers in Regiments, who are under the limitations & exceptions expressed in that our answer, & insert in the Act of Leavie; As also we are informed that sundry under Officers are chosen by Collonels in Shyres, who having been formerly under censure, have not as yet satisfied the Kirk: We do humbly conceive, that it had been fit, rather to have kept within the bounds of the exceptions, so farre as necessity could have permitted, then to have transgressed & gone beyond them: And now we doe earnestly beseech your Majesty & Lordships, that this may be looked to, & remedied in tyme; and that you would, both for your selves rectifie what is amisse of this kynd in the Act of Leavie, & and also take effectuall course, that Collonels in Shyres doe not choose vnder Officers, who have not given satisfaction to the Kirk, and that such as are of this condition, and are already put in command, may be removed. There is not want of Officers in the kingdome, able for charge, against whom there can be no just exception; And we cannot but heavily regrave, that, as we are informed, many such are passed by, and others imployed.

In the next place, We desyre in all humilitie, to represent unto your Majestie & Lordships, our sad fears, concerning the apparent slow progresse that is in publick proceedings, towards acting against the enemy: A great part of the kingdom is lying under miserable bondage, & only not utterly destroyed, & past recovery: The rest threatned with the lyke calamities by the enemy, who is diligent & active every way, for accomplishing his designs; all thinges deare to us in the world are lying at the stake; yet it is a wonder, and a matter of very great fear to the people generally, that not only here-to-fore since the sad defeat

at *Dumbar*, for so long a time, so little hath been effectually indeuoured for the reliefe of the Land, and that publick courses formerlie appointed for gathering Forces together, have been rendered in effectual, by particular mens grosse interverting them to their own privat-gaine: But that also since our resolution to the Quæree you propounded to us, in poynt of conscience, concerning a new Leauie, the orders issued forth by your Majestie and the Estates of Parliament for the Leauie, have been followed with so slender diligence and execution, that it is lyke, the enemy may have faire occasion to over-runne all, ere there be any considerable power to oppose him. We wil not, nor can we say, but much of the Cause herof is abroad through the countrey, in the basenesse & auersnes of people, to put themselves to present trouble, though for the defence of their countrey, Religion, Lyves & Liberties; yet we must earnestly and humbly desyre, it be carefully looked to, that the retarding of proceedings, doe not in part, aryse from the fountayne of actings it selfe. We shall be farre from blaming anie in particular: But we think sarelie, that were there more activitie & forwardnesse there, there needed not be so much slownesse abroad in the countrey. Therefore wee beseech your Majestie and Lordships, by all these bondes of nature, Religion, Vowes, and Covenants, and Honour, that lye upon you before GOD, and the World, that you would see to the discoverie, and removing of all obstructions, which may retard, and for slow proceedings, according to publick resolutions: And that you would both activelie bestirre your selfe, as also, by that Power and Authoritie which GOD hath put in your handes, cause all others doe their duetie according to their places and stations, for Defence and delyverie of this bleeding and perishing Countrey and Kingdome: That you may not, through slacknesse, or anie other way, bring upon your selves the guilt of destroying the same, nor that Curse which posteritie would have just cause to imprecate upon this Generation, if through our default, they should be made slaves to so wicked usurpers.

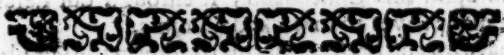
Wee have for the present but this to adde in the last place, that as we lyked well of the Answer given by your Lordships to our Remonstrance to the Parliament of the date

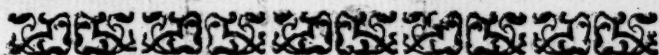
So we

So we are very sory we doe not as yet see performances answerable thereunto, Especially in the matter cōcerning these, that in the former Leavie tooke up money for men and horses, through the countrey; As this was a most vyle wickednesse, and a very betraying of the Cause, and Kingdome; So it is a thing most offensive to all people within the Land, that here-to-fore nothing hath been effectuallie done for calling these men to an accompt: For how-so-ever a Committee was appoynted for their tryall, yet what hath that Committee done? And how commeth it to passe, that they have done nothing? Wee will not determine whence the obstruction of this matter hath flowed; But certaynlie if your Lordships doe not take some effectuall course to try and redresse that vyle abusing of the countrey, you will bring the guilt of it upon your selves, incourage all covetous persons in place, to be still practising in that same way, and cannot but make people unwilling to everie publick duetie, as seeing that themselves are but exhausted, to make up private men, and no course taken for preventing anie abuses in this kynd. GOD forbid your MAJESTIE and LORDSHIPS should connive at, and passe over such wickednesse.

The great necessitie of this Kingdome, conscience of our duetie, and desyre to be faythfull in our Places to your MAJESTIE and LORDSHIPS constrayned us to use this humble Freedome, which wee trust will bee taken in good part. **ARISE, FOR THIS MATTER BELONGETH UNTO YOU: TAKE COWRAGE, AND DOE IN YOUR STATIONS AND PLACES.**

A. Ker.





PERTH, 6. Febr. 1651.



THE KINGS MA-
JESTIE, and COM-

MITTEE of ESTATES, doe
take well, and return heartie
thanks to the COMMISSIONERS of
the GENERALL ASSEMBLIE, for
their care, and saythfulnesse, in gi-
ving frequent, and seasonable WAR-

NINGS of these dueties, which ought to bee Performed for
the good of Religion, King, & Kingdom: And that they may
the better resolve, and provyde Remedie, that none bee ad-
mitted to have Charge in the Armie, but such as are capable,
according to the advyce given by the Commission in their
ANSWER to the QUERIE propounded, by the KING
and Parliament, They desyre they will condiscend particu-
larlie upon such Persons, as are not capable of imployment, ac-
cording to that advyce. And doe further desyre you to make
knowne to the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, that
by Act of Parliament, and of this Committee, It is ordayned,
That none against whom there is exception, shall bee admitted
to exerce anie Charge in the Armie, till first they had satisfied
the Kirk: And desyre to be informed of anie the Commissioners
of the Kirk doe know of that kynd, for it is the Resolution of
the Committee to admit of none, till they give satisfaction, &
when they hear of any, to remove them, till satisfaction be gi-
ven. And as for punishing of such as have taken money for
men, there is a select Committee appoynted, which daylie sit-
teth, & are proceeding with al the care they can, for trying such
as are guilty of that fault: And where they can get Probation,
resolve to inflict condign punishmēt upō such as are guilty, But
have cause to expostulat that not-with-standing the frequent

advertisements given to the Committees of Warre, there is great
 slownes, and avernesse to bring in either Complaint, or Probation
 agaynst anie. And that there hath not been effectuell
 means, for raising of Forces, & acting against the Enemy, for
 reliefe of the kingdom, since the dissipating of the Army at
Dunbar, The same hath not proceeded from want of frequent
 advertisements, and peremptory orders, from the Kings Majes-
 stie, the Parliament, and Committee of Estates, to the Commit-
 tees of Warre, and Collonels of the severall Shyres, from tyme
 to tyme, shewing them, the imminent dangers, and requyring
 them to speedy performance of their ducie, as will appeare, &
 bee made evident, by the many letters & orders sent to them
 for that effect; But from the slownesse, and avernesse of the
 Countrey. And wee cannot but with regrave desyre to make
 known to the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, that
 the difference of Iudgement of some of the Ministerie, from
 the Publick Resolutions of the King, and Parliament; and
 Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie; And their refu-
 sing to concurre, and hindering their People, to give obe-
 dience to their Orders, is not one of the least obstructions to
 the Leavie, and acting against the Enemy, Which his Maje-
 stie, and Committee, doe earnestlie desyre may by the wisdom
 of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie bee tymelie
 remedied; Wherein his Majestie, and this Committee, are
 most willing, and desyreous to contribute their best advyce,
 and assistance; And have appoynted some of their number,
 to conferre with the Commissioners of the Generall Assem-
 blie, at their ensuing Meeting at *Perth*. **EXTRACT.**

M. Tho: Henderson.

